GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:169
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2007
SHORTAGE OF STAFFS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
Dhumal Prof. Prem Kumar

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the fund allocated for various Rural Development Programmes is lying unspent due to shortage of staffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints from implementing agencies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action being taken by the Government thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) &(b) The programme guidelines allow unspent balance upto 10% of the available funds at the end of the financial year for smooth continuance of the rural development programmes. The unspent amount under Rural Development Programmes with the implementing agencies is not only due to shortage of staff, but it is also on account of other factors like limited working seasons, natural calamities, geographical locations of various districts/ villages, particularly in North Eastern States and hilly States, elections of the legislative and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received specific complaint from the implementing agencies in regard to shortage of staff on account of which funds could not be utilized.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has issued detailed guidelines for DRDA Administration, including staffing pattern to implement rural development programmes effectively and allowed to hire qualified and experiences personnel on contract basis for vacant post in Group C. The DRDAs may also assess the need for outsourcing for particular assignment.